

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 00226 161038Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS MUNICH 00226

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TA GS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS COMMENTS ON NEW BUGGING  
AFFAIR

REF: MUNICH 00225

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS' COMMENTS ON THE NEWLY REVEALED BUGGING AFFAIR INVOLVING A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH AN EDITOR OF CSU ORGAN "BAYERNKURIER" DOMINATED THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE JANUARY 12-14 MEETING OF CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES AT WILDBAD KREUTH (REFTL). STRAUSS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF THE BUGGED CONVERSATION, AND INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE TRANSCRIPT WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG WAS ACCURATE IN THE MAIN, IT CONTAINED DISTORTIONS AND AT LEAST ONE ADDITION. THE CSU WILL SEEK A PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION AND PRESS  
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PAGE 02 MUNICH 00226 161038Z

APPROPRIATE CRIMINAL CHARGES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LEAD STORY IN THE JANUARY 14 ISSUE OF SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (SZ) REPORTED THAT THE SZ HAD RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS DOCUMENT WHICH PURPORTED TO BE A TRANSCRIPT OF A LATE SEPTEMBER 1976 TELECON BETWEEN STRAUSS AND BAYERN-KURIER EDITOR WILFRIED SCHARNAGL. THIS CONVERSATION

APPARENTLY DEALT WITH ALLEGATIONS THAT THE MINDEF FILES RELATING TO PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED F 104'S ARE MISSING. STRAUSS' COMMENTS ON THIS NEW BUGGING AFFAIR DOMINATED THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE JANUARY 14 CLOSED MEETING OF CSU DEPUTIES AT WILDBAD KREUTH.

3. STRAUSS ACKNOWLEDGED TO PRESS THAT HE HAD HAD SUCH A TELECON WITH SCHARNAGL IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1976. STRAUSS ALSO INDICATED THAT HIS RECOLLECTION OF THIS CONVERSATION LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT TRANSCRIPT COULD WELL BE ACCURATE IN THE MAIN. HE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, PARTY(IES) RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSCRIPT HAD INSERTED AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL PASSAGE AND MODIFIED LANGUAGE IN OTHERS.

4. STRAUSS IS CONVINCED THAT THE PERSON/PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "DOCTORED" TRANSCRIPT OF HIS BUGGED CONVERSATION MAY HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH THE REPORT OF THE FRG MIN JUSTICE COMMITTEE WHICH INVESTIGATED THE LOCKHEED FILES FURNISHED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

5. CSU LANDESGRUPPE CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMANN, WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN THE JANUARY 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID THAT CSU WOULD ASK ITS CDU COLLEAGUES ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, TO SUBMIT IN NAME OF JOINT CDU/CSU BUNDESTAGSFRAKTION REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION OF THIS BUGGING UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MUNICH 00226 161038Z

INCIDENT. ZIMMERMANN ALSO INDICATED THAT CSU QUESTIONS ACCURACY OF STATEMENT BY STATE SECRETARY SCHUELER OF CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE THAT NO REPEAT NO AGENCY OF FRG HAD HAND IN THIS ILLEGAL BUGGING INCIDENT. NOTING THAT HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG'S G-10 COMMITTEE WHICH OVERSEES OFFICIAL EAVESDROPPING OPERATIONS, ZIMMERMANN OBSERVED THAT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF BUGGING INCIDENTS LIKE THIS TAKES CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME.

6. CSU LEADERS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE MOTIVE FOR DISSEMINATION OF THIS ALLEGEDLY DOCTORED TRANSCRIPT OF STRAUSS' SEPTEMBER 1976 CONVERSATION WITH SCHARNAGL MAY HAVE BEEN TO REAWAKEN RUMORS ABOUT STRAUSS AND LOCKHEED. BETTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, SURVEILLANCE, ALLEGATIONS, LISTENING DEVICES, MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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